



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: March 26, 2006
CWP WA-CW1306

Spring has arrived!

Field Crops

Spring has begun with rain reported in most of the state. Winter wheat condition is in fair to excellent condition overall but some damage was reported in Walla Walla County. Walla Walla sweet onions looked good but some damage was also reported for winter red onions. This damage has recently become apparent and was caused by extreme cold temperatures in February. Planting for spring wheat and potatoes was well underway for growers in the southeast.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 14% poor, 28% fair, 56% good, and 2% excellent. Spring calving continued and poor rangeland conditions were reported in the southeast corner of the state. Supplemental feeding continued, while producers wait for more growth in pastures.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.0
Last Week	NA

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	2	82	16
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	10	80	9
Subsoil	1	8	87	4
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	18	79	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	98	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	8	91	1
Hay & Roughage	0	32	68	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	26	NA	45	27
Spring Wheat Emerged	11	NA	12	5
Barley Planted	14	NA	29	13
Barley Emerged	7	NA	7	3
Potatoes Planted	3	NA	5	2
Proc. Green Peas Planted	10	NA	7	1
Dry Peas Planted	0	NA	13	3

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	3	32	49	14
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	12	88	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Some rain, totaling 1.85 inches was received in the Upper Peninsula at Port Angeles. On the east end, Port Townsend received 1.04 inches so far with the average high of 59 and the average low of 32.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: February was generally warmer than normal with below normal precipitation. A cold snap last week brought temperatures into the teens and lower twenties. March has been wet and windy as expected. Fields were beginning to dry and the grass was beginning to grow—all signs that spring has arrived. In the Pacific Northwest this means that another shot of winter can't be far behind.

Mason: With spring finally arriving, producers were busy with fieldwork, preparing soil, spring planting, and getting rid of winter cobwebs and dust. The first plants and seed were being sown, and greenhouses and hoopouses were full of transplants getting ready for the ground. Calves, kids, and piglets were arriving daily. Chicks were hatching, and pullets were being moved outside. The weather has been typical for western Washington spring—alternating between sunshine and rain showers.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions were poor. The fields were wet and producer have not been able to get in the fields. There were no unusual situations to report or any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: Upland well-drained soils were being prepared for planting early season vegetables and grass crops. Some grass was planted. The warm breezes dried up excess surface moisture.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The week averaged fairly mild weather. Intermittent rain showers with some hail was received on Friday, March 24. No crop damage was reported.

Snohomish/N. King: Heavy winds reaching 30 mph with rain was received two weeks ago, and snow with rain showers is predicted. Temperatures warmed up some with a high of 48 degrees and a low of 39 during the month.

Snohomish/King: Plowing was underway as the weather and soil moisture permitted. Spring rains slowed fieldwork. Pruning of fruit trees was nearly done and buds were swelling.

Whatcom: Farmers in higher elevations began spring tillage practices thanks to drier than usual March weather. A couple of frosty nights at the beginning of the week switched to the 40's by midweek, while highs warmed up to the mid-50's.

Central

Benton: Showers were received Friday and Saturday. Orchards and vineyards have begun some frost control.

Grant: Moisture conditions were in good shape. Dryland winter wheat crop looked good. Extreme low temperatures experienced in mid-February caused losses to fall planted vegetable seed crops. Spring fieldwork began in most parts of the county. Irrigation districts began filling main water canals, with irrigation season beginning this week.

Kittitas: The weather conditions were spring-like in the Kittitas Valley. Moisture has been a total reversal from

last year at this time. Irrigation water was at 100 percent compared to 66 percent last year. Forecasts predict warmer weather, highs in the low 50's to low 60's for the week with a chance of scattered showers.

Klickitat: Most areas were too wet to begin farming. Some spraying was done in the past week.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from two degrees below normal to eight degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.

Eastern

Asotin: Very wet weather and cooler than normal temperatures prevailed throughout most areas of the county. The additional moisture benefitted winter wheat in the lower elevations. Warmer and dryer conditions were needed for spring fieldwork to progress in the mid to higher elevations of the county.

Asotin/Garfield: Winter wheat was in good condition coming out of winter, but it was small due to dry conditions last fall and cold weather this past month. Moisture conditions were good in most areas except some of the lower elevations. Spring work and planting began in the lower half of both counties. Rangeland was in poor condition in many areas due to last year's drought and cold weather this spring. Some producers will be feeding livestock longer than normal and waiting for growth in pastures before turning livestock out for grazing.

Adams: Additional precipitation was recorded this week. Along with the moisture recorded earlier this spring, the precipitation has helped alleviate dry conditions from the past year. Winter wheat was in mostly good to fair condition and should only improve with the available moisture. Spring cereal seeding began a couple of weeks ago and will continue for another week or so.

Adams (2nd Report): Producers have begun seeding spring grains into good conditions. Irrigators were preparing seed beds for upcoming plantings of potatoes and peas.

Garfield: The weather remained cold. Producers were waiting for warmer weather to begin fieldwork.

Lincoln: Additional precipitation was recorded again this week and, along with the moisture recorded earlier this spring, helped alleviate dry conditions from last year. Winter wheat was in mostly excellent/good/fair condition and should only improve with the available moisture. Spring cereal seeding began in the southwest corner of the county and will progress slowly throughout the county over the next couple of weeks.

Pend Oreille: The weather was typical of March—rain, snow, sun and some freezing at night. Things were beginning to green up a little, but fields were still pretty wet and no one has begun farming.

Stevens: Spring calving continued under muddy conditions. Grazing animals picked at a few leaves of green grass, but most were still dependent on diminishing hay piles. Fields were still too wet for any type of tillage work. A few warm days with highs in the 50's gave hope that spring was coming.

Walla Walla: Crops overall were in good condition. Some areas reported damage to the winter wheat crop due to extreme cold temperatures and high winds in mid-February. Walla Walla sweet onions looked good; however, some reports of winter red onions showed some damage due to the above mentioned event. Moisture to date has been good throughout Columbia and Walla Walla Counties.

Whitman: Fieldwork has not yet begun in most of the county, but if the weather conditions hold—tractors will be hitting the hills next week. The eastern third of the county and lower grounds will be slower in getting started. Subsoil and topsoil moisture conditions were in much better condition than last year.

Weekly Weather Statistics

March 27, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	28	61	47	3	4	0	0	0	0.17	-0.46	2	25.40	-0.86	97	116
Everett	35	63	47	2	4	-3	0	0	0.60	-0.20	5	24.77	-1.29	95	120
Hoquiam	33	57	46	-1	0	-7	0	0	2.23	0.71	6	62.25	7.92	115	137
Kelso	28	63	47	2	5	-2	0	0	0.59	-0.39	5	34.08	-1.32	96	115
Olympia	25	58	46	2	1	-3	0	0	0.50	-0.54	5	45.77	5.00	112	120
Sea-Tac	35	64	48	2	5	-2	0	0	0.63	-0.12	6	30.02	0.76	103	115
Shelton	26	59	45	-2	0	-7	0	0	1.08	-0.33	6	61.88	8.32	116	121
Tacoma	27	63	47	1	4	-3	0	0	0.44	-0.40	3	33.30	2.32	107	106
Vancouver	29	60	48	3	6	-1	0	0	0.56	-0.29	5	35.21	3.26	110	113
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	26	64	47	5	3	3	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	8.81	2.28	135	61
Stampede Pass	27	46	38	8	0	0	0	0	0.58	-1.00	4	59.61	-5.54	91	121
Wenatchee	35	62	48	3	3	0	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	4.40	-1.42	76	43
Yakima AP	25	62	47	3	4	2	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	7.47	1.64	128	54
NORTHEAST															
Colville	28	60	44	4	0	-1	0	0	0.18	-0.24	2	13.56	-0.13	99	68
Deer Park	26	61	42	3	0	-1	0	0	0.51	0.16	4	20.96	8.58	169	87
Spokane AP	28	59	43	4	0	-2	0	0	0.38	0.04	3	13.55	2.50	123	80
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	28	62	46	2	4	1	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	7.37	2.26	144	55
Moses Lake	29	65	47	3	5	2	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	8.28	3.17	162	61
Quincy	27	63	47	3	3	1	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	8.73	3.17	157	63
Ritzville	28	61	43	2	0	0	0	0	0.17	-0.04	2	11.50	3.59	145	72
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	30	64	49	0	9	-1	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.69	-1.11	77	33
Pasco	32	68	51	3	16	7	0	0	0.22	0.08	1	6.51	1.09	120	53
Pullman	29	60	44	5	3	3	0	0	0.71	0.24	3	7.50	-7.10	51	72
Whitman Miss.	28	67	48	2	13	6	0	0	1.31	1.02	4	10.88	1.57	117	80
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	27	61	43	3	0	-1	0	0	0.18	-0.31	2	7.75	-9.91	44	64
Lewiston ID	31	62	49	5	13	6	0	0	0.56	0.28	2	6.12	-0.97	86	58

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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